

Regarding “Malpractice deals; Taxpayers lose a third to contingency lawyers” (Opinion June 23):

The malicious crusade undertaken by *Union-Tribune* editorial writer Robert Kittle to discredit the San Diego City Attorney’s Office under my leadership has reached a new low. One has to wonder on just what planet Kittle lives.

The pursuit of legal and professional malpractice lawsuits against the various firms that were responsible for leading the City into the pension debacle was not only necessary but marks the *first* time this office has ever pursued such claims. What’s not to like about prevailing to the tune of \$10 million? I’m sure that San Diego taxpayers are sensible and see the wisdom of taking on these cases.

Kittle’s twisted logic, however, speaks to a more sinister motive. Simply put, he just can’t abide someone standing up to him and his desire to play powerbroker in San Diego politics. Do his bidding and you get editorially anointed by the newspaper. Take him on and you get destroyed in black ink.

The *San Diego Union-Tribune* is largely culpable for supporting some of the worst municipal decisions this City has made over the last two decades. Endorsing the likes of Mayors Susan Golding and Dick Murphy and their bereft policies such as the ticket guarantee and the funding formula change for the downtown ballpark has left San Diego taxpayers on the hook for millions of dollars.

Oh and that pesky \$4 billion pension problem that this city attorney is trying to correct? Where was the venerable *U-T* watchdog back then? Obviously, too afraid to bark!

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